

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, the specification and claim 9 have been amended. No new matter is presented and, accordingly, approval and entry of the foregoing specification and claim amendments are respectfully requested.

STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 9 and 10 are rejected.

Claims 1-8 are allowed.

Claims 1-10 are pending and under consideration.

AT PAGE 2, ITEM 2: OBJECTIONS TO THE DRAWINGS

In accordance with the foregoing, a replacement drawing of FIG. 1 is herewith submitted.

AT PAGE 2, ITEM 3: OBJECTION TO SPECIFICATION

In response to the Examiner's objection, Applicant have amended the specification in the foregoing to incorporate therein the appropriate recitation for claiming benefit of foreign priority application JP 2003-070318 filed March 14, 2003.

AT PAGE 3, ITEM 1: OBJECTION TO CLAIMS

In response to the Examiner's objections to claims 1-10, Applicants point out the defined meaning of "OTDR" (optical time domain reflectometer) at page 1, lines 10-11 in the specification.

ACTION AT PAGE 3: REJECTION OF CLAIM 9 FOR ANTICIPATION UNDER 35 U.S.C. 102(b) BY SPIRIT ET AL. (U.S. PATENT 5,298,965);

ACTION AT PAGE 4: REJECTION OF CLAIM 10 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § AS UNPATENTABLE OVER SPIRIT ET AL. AS APPLIED TO CLAIM 9, AND FURTHER IN VIEW OF ESKILDSEN ET AL. (U.S. PATENT 5,959,750)

The rejections are respectfully traversed.

The claim 9, as amended, is supported by FIG. 19. Although Spirit et al. discloses a system in which OTDR signal light is amplified using Raman pump light, Spirit does not disclose or suggest that the OTDR signal light is remote pump amplified (where the EDF is used) and Raman amplified by using pump light for remote pump amplification.

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Eskildsen likewise does not disclose or suggest the above-described claimed elements.

The references, taken singularly or in any proper combination, fail to disclose or suggest the invention is claimed in amended claim 9. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 9 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: _____



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